Baptism is usually a big feast
851 celebrated at home some weeks after the birth
795
of the child, with relatives and friends attending.
The next big celebration in a young person's
life is his confirmation day, a time of presents
585 and gay parties. Weddings used to be the biggest
369 of all celebrations, which in the country often
lasted for several days, sometimes even as
long as a week. Weddings in urban communities
764 are usually one-day affairs. Funerals were
also a time for large gatherings, but the time was
spent mainly in quiet conversation.

527 One of the nationally celebrated holidays is
St. John Day's Eve (jaani-laupäev), June 23rd,
famed in all northern countries as the midsummer
(equinox) holiday. The romantic traditions of
this night are still kept alive in the countryside
and many townspeople go out to celebrate it.
Barrels stuffed with lumber and tar are placed